

M E R C A T O R :

O R,

Commerce Retrieved,

B E I N G

CONSIDERATIONS on the State of the *British* Trade, &c.

From Tuesday, June 15. to Thursday, June 17. 1714.

*The Reasons why the Treaty is not brought in yet are not known.**The Opposers boast they are the Cause.**They will be laugh'd at when the Truth appears.**Their Contradicting and Confounding themselves observ'd.**The Notion of the French Exporting our Goods from Marseilles farther Exposed.**A Letter from Leghorn.**Observations thereon.*

IF Demonstrations would convince the Opposers of the French Commerce, the Reasons why that Treaty is not yet made Effectual, will in time silence and abash them, they vainly have flatter'd themselves and their Party that their Clamours have prevented it, which the World will have its time to Expose them for, and to make them appear effectually ridiculous in; But for the present they must go on with that and their other Delusions.

They have granted, it seems, for it could not be deny'd, that our Goods go in great Quantities into Marseilles, but they would not have this be esteem'd going into France, and so they have submitted to make the French turn Factors for our Goods, and Export them to other Ports, such as Genoa, &c. How they will answer for this to those whom they formerly made believe that the French carry'd their own Manufactures to all the Ports of the World and there undersold us; and to the Author of the late Guardian, whom they drew in to say, the French bid fair for Engrossing all the Trade of Europe; this the *Mercator* leaves to themselves to struggle with.

It seems worth our Observation in this Case, how the Embarking in Forgeries and Frauds confounds Men, makes them differ from themselves as well as from the Truth of Fact, say one thing to Day, and the contrary to Morrow, kick themselves down, and then up again, and then down again, till they make themselves meer Tumblers in their Arguments, and Moun-

tebanking the World, become fit for nothing but to be laugh'd at.

Several Prints and Authors have been employ'd, and sundry Edicts and Arrests of the French Court been publish'd to prove how able the French were to make Bayes and Perpetu-
anas, and how upon abating about Three-half-pence per Ell Duty or thereabouts on the Exportation; they were to be made able to undersel the English, and so get away all our Trade.

Upon the Presumption of this forcible Way of arguing; How strangely did their Gasconading Scribbler Triumph over the *Mercator*? How did their Knighted Oracle dictate to us? What such foreign Encroachers upon our Trade as he is, have help'd on as much as they were able, (viz.) that our Poor should want Employment, come to the Parishes, &c. and the Landed-men must keep them, provide Hospitals for them, and the like.

The *Mercator* thinks the Landed Gentlemen should provide a House of Correction for these Men or a Bedlam, who endeavour to destroy those Parts of our Commerce which would Employ and Maintain our Poor, and not only keep them from being a Charge to the Parishes, but enable them to subsist comfortably and plentifully, and thereby encrease the Consumption at home, and Exportation abroad; and this they doubly Merit, because after they have amused the poor People with their Exclamations against the French Commerce so long, have told them, that the French make



make all our Goods at home, and send them to the Markets abroad, where they undersell us, and carry away all our Trade; after all this they are now come to acknowledge, that the French themselves are so far from sending their own Goods abroad, or indeed of having any to send abroad, that the Merchants of Marseilles send to London for Woollen-Manufactures, and bring them to Marseilles to Export again to Genoa.

Let any Man judge, whether these Men do not deserve a House of Correction, and whether they do not now fly in the Face of all they had said before. There is no need of contradicting Men, who thus contradict themselves.

And yet after all, they wrong the French too; for as it is certain they would never do this in the manner these Men alledge, if they had any Manufacture of their own to Export, so it is certain on the other hand, that the French do Export those few and ordinary Manufactures which they have, and do not carry any of ours where their own will go off.

On the other hand, the *Mercator* is well assured, that the English Manufactures which now are Shipped and Entred *as to the Straights*, are not only landed at Marseilles, but that the Merchants of Marseilles have found Ways and Means to convey them into France itself, and that in so great Quantities, as that the Exportations from hence to Marseilles are not sufficient, but that large Quantities of English Goods have been bought at Leghorn (*another free Port*) by the Merchants of Marseilles, and shipp'd to them to supply their Occasions.

As to the Question which way, and by what means the said Merchants at Marseilles convey the said English Goods into France, whether by Connivance or Contrivance, is not to the Question, nor is the *Mercator* willing to say any thing that might be a means to prevent them for the future, in a Trade which is so beneficial to our Country; There are Enemies of our Trade enow already, who will not stick to run down and ruin our Commerce at any rate, to uphold but a Party or raise a Mutiny at home against the Government. The *Mercator* is too sensible of the Mischief these Men do their Country to imitate them, and will rather lose the Advantage of what he might say in this Case than discover the Methods by which a Trade is carried on that England gains by.

But that this may nevertheless be put out of Question, the *Mercator* gives a Copy of a Letter from a Merchant at Leghorn, who has seen some

of these Disputes, and has written it on purpose to give publick Satisfaction.

S I R,

Livorno, May 28. 1714.

It is wonder'd at here very much, that your Writers should have the boldness to assert, that the French take off none of the English Manufactures, since the contrary is obvious here every Day, for besides the Goods which are brought from London and Bristol to Marseilles directly, and by divers English Ships, who in their Trading Voyages touch at Marseilles, we have every Day Sloops, Satees, Burco-longo's, and other Vessels running from Marseilles hither, and returning thither, by whom we load Bale-Goods in great Quantity. Our House have this Week shipp'd 15 Bales of Perpets and Serges, with other Goods for Marseilles, for Account and Risque of Messieurs B— and G— at Lyons, and have Orders for 50 Spanish Cloths, which we expect by the next Ships from England.

There is much more to this purpose in the said Letter, not fit to be made publick, as above, and which for that Reason the *Mercator* omits: But this discovers a Truth which these Men it seems cared not to reveal, (*viz.*) That not only are our Woollen Manufactures sent from hence to Marseilles, but the Merchants at Marseilles give Commissions to Leghorn, and buy great Quantities of our Goods there to supply their Demands.

And that these Goods are not for other Ports, as indeed is an apparent sham of these Men, whose Invention is mighty fruitful that way, appears in the above Letter, which says, those Goods are for the Account and Risque of some Merchants of Lyons.

The Truth is, that the sending for English Goods to Marseilles to send out again to Genoa, where we are able to send them directly, and as soon and as cheap as we can to Marseilles, is such a coarse piece of Collusion, so mean a Shuffle, that one would wonder these Men should not be ashamed of it.

It is a Sign they are but Second-hand Merchants, and know little of what they are saying; but they have a Cause to uphold, and it is such a Cause as must want Shifts to uphold it, and therefore they are driven to so many Turnings and Twistings to wriggle themselves out of the Difficulties which they find themselves embarras'd in.

What they will have to say next remains a doubt; but a lying Cause seldom fails of lying Helps; nor will this fall short while it has such Advocates at hand to defend it.



LONDON: Printed for BENI. TOOKE, at the Temple-Gate, and JOHN BARBER, on Lambeth-Hill. (Price 3 Half-pence.)